

Message Text

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SUBJ: RETIREMENTS AND DISMISSALS CONTINUE

REF : (A) LAGOS 9324 AND PREVIOUS (B) LAGOS 9385

(C) LAGOS 8249

SUMMARY: IN SPITE ASSURANCES GIVEN BY FMG SEPTEMBER 19 (REFTEL A) THAT QTE MAJOR EXERCISE UNQTE OF MANDATORY RETIREMENTS AND DISMISSALS HAD ENDED, MASS SACKINGS CONTINUE IN VARIOUS BRANCHES FEDERAL AND STATE PUBLIC SERVICES. FOCUS NOW SEEMS DIRECTED AT LOWER-RANKING EMPLOYEES. A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, PERHAPS MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN THE FIRINGS THEMSELVES, IS THE CREATION SEPTEMBER 22 OF AN ASSETS INVESTIGATION PANEL TO INVESTIGATE HOLDINGS OF FORMER OFFICIALS. END SUMMARY.

1. WAVE OF SACKINGS CONTINUED WITH RETIREMENT OR DISMISSAL SEPTEMBER 26 OF 179 OFFICERS DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE. THE FOLLOWING DAY 35 OFFICERS IN BOTH MIDDLE AND JUNIOR GRADES WERE SACKED FROM NIGERIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION (NBC). THESE ANNOUNCEMENTS COME ON HEELS OF DISMISSAL 27 OFFICERS CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA, AS REPORTED IN REFTEL B.

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2. MAKEUP OF LIUTS OF THOSE FIRED INDICATES FMG MAY BE

CHANGING ITS FOCUS FROM SENIOR RANKS TO MIDDLE AND JUNIOR EMPLOYEES. HOF CUSTOMS OFFICERS SACKED, ONLY FOUR CAME FROM MORE SENIOR RANKS, NAMELY C.A. SAGAY, CHIEF COLLECTOR; AND THREE ASSISTANT PREVENTATIVE COMMANDANTS. THE OTHER 175 WERE LOWER RANKING, INCLUDING ASSISTANT COLLECTORS AND PREVENTIVE OFFICERS. THOSE SACKED AT NBC INCLUDED SENIOR STUDIO MANAGER A. HURUNA JOE AND SENIOR SUB-EDITOR O. C. UGWUMBA, BUT ALSO INCLUDED MOTOR MECHANICS, CARPENTERS AND PAINTERS. FMG ASSURANCES TO SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS THAT MAJOR EXERCISE HAD FINISHED THUS MAY WELL BE ACCURATE (FOR THE TIME BEING.) IN A NUMBER OF STATEMENTS RECENTLY, FMG SPOKESMEN HAVE EMPHASIZED NEED FOR JUNIOR CIVIL SERVANTS E.G. POSTAL EMPLOYEES, CUSTOMS INSPECTORS, AIRLINE EMPLOYEES, TO GIVE THE PUBLIC EFFICIENT, COURTEOUS SERVICE. NEW RETIREMENTS WOULD INDICATE THAT FMG IS NOW DIRECTING ITS ATTENTIONS IN EARNEST AT LOWER ECHELONS.

3. FMG SEPTEMBER 22 ANNOUNCED ESTABLISHMENT OF PANEL PROBE ASSETS FORMER AND CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICERS. IT INVITED STATEMENTS BY MAIL FROM QTE ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC WHO HAS ANY INFORMATION THAT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO THE PANEL UNQTE. INVESTIGATIONS WILL BE BEHIND CLOSED DOORS. THIS IS IN KEEPING WITH BRIGADIER OBASANJO'S PRESS CONFERENCE OF AUGUST 22 (REFTEL C), AND FMG'S CONCERN THAT CLAMOR FOR WITCH-HUNT NOT GET OUT OF HAND. NEW PANEL WOULD SEEM EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENT BY WHICH FMG CAN CRACK DOWN ON SELECTED MALEFACTORS. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT NEW GOVERNMENT -- BOTH AT STATE AND FEDERAL LEVELS -- IS SINCERE IN ITS ANNOUNCED INTENTION OF CLEANING OUT CORRUPT AND INCOMPETENT OFFICIALS FROM RANKS OF PUBLIC SERVICE. THREE FORMER GOVERNORS, FARKK (NORTH WESTERN), DIETE-SPIFF (RIVERF) AND BAMIGBOYE (KWARA). PLUS FORMER PERMANENT SECRETARY PHILIP ASIODU, SEEM TO BE BIG-WIGS PRESENTLY IN DEEPEST TROUBLE.
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